

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

July 5, 2006

Every year in Los Angeles County, millions of public and private dollars are spent to clean up and combat graffiti vandalism. Graffiti in our communities not only signals the presence of a criminal element, but also has been proven to increase the amount of crime. The County must do everything in its power to stop this serious and pervasive problem that affects residents, property owners, businesses and citizens.

A public nuisance is defined, under State law, as a nuisance that affects, at the same time, an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons, although the extent of the annoyance or damage inflicted upon individuals may be unequal. There is no doubt that a graffiti problem constitutes a public nuisance, and this County is authorized by State law to abate public nuisances.

The County has also in the past adopted ordinances that authorize the seizure and forfeiture of vehicles used in illegal dumping and water theft because it would abate these nuisances. The graffiti problem that is found in many of our communities is no less a public nuisance than either of these, and because of this, there needs to be a similar ordinance dealing with the vehicles involved in tagging/graffiti activities.

- M O R E -

MOTION

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| MOLINA | _____ |
| BURKE | _____ |
| YAROSLAVSKY | _____ |
| KNABE | _____ |
| ANTONOVICH | _____ |

I, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors request the District Attorney to:

1. Work with County Counsel, the Sheriff's Department and the Department of Public Works to examine the feasibility and legal implications of the County adopting an ordinance authorizing the seizure and forfeiture of vehicles used in graffiti/tagging activities, similar to the Ordinances codified in Chapters 13.80 and 13.81 of the County Code, authorizing the seizure and forfeiture of vehicles that are used in illegal dumping and water theft activities; and
2. Report back to the Board within 30 days with a recommendation on the adoption of a similar ordinance by the County to fight graffiti vandalism in Los Angeles County.

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